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Marshal Zhukov —Only in Russia

By Marguerite Higgins
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

WASHINGTON.

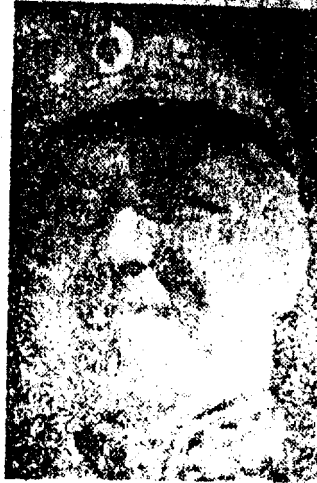
Intriguing reports from Moscow suggest that war-time hero Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov is being brought back into favor to appease dissident Soviet military elements.

The sensational Moscow treason trial of Col. Oleg V. Penkovsky gives credence to speculation here that a dissident military group does exist.

The ramifications of this trial are only beginning to emerge, experts say. There is evidence that the doomed colonel, painted as a playboy who needed spy money to pay for his follies, has actually long been a politically motivated critic of the Kremlin.

Indeed, Col. Penkovsky has been punished before for outspoken opposition to certain hard-line Kremlin policies, but apparently—and this is a most significant point—he had managed to make a comeback because of protection by high military men.

Sources here believe that Soviet Premier Khrushchev



Marshal Zhukov

must ferret out those who gave Col. Penkovsky protection. But at the same time Mr. Khrushchev must not alienate the military. The return of Marshal Zhukov is pictured as one psychological cushion that will soften the blows that Mr. Khrushchev will have to deal Col. Penkovsky's pals.

Marshal Zhukov was removed as defense secretary late in 1957 and his military feats were downgraded.

The first authoritative sign that his fortunes are on the upswing is an article by Soviet Defense Minister Bodion Malinovsky. This article avoids vilification and instead speaks almost approvingly of Marshal Zhukov's contributions in World War II battles. In the same article Mr. Malinovsky notably fails to echo recent Communist party claims that Premier Khrushchev played a hero's role in the Battle of Stalingrad.

Western diplomats report that Moscow is rife with reports that Marshal Zhukov, despite his 68 years, may even get an official post.

Mr. Khrushchev's caution in dealing with the dissident military is viewed as a significant example of the limitations of his power as compared to Stalin's.

Col. Penkovsky's history as a deserter goes back, experts say, to a tour of duty in Ankara, Turkey, as a military attaché during 1955 and 1956.

time, Col. Penkovsky astonished diplomatic circles by the outspoken way in which he talked of his disgust with the repression of freedom by the Kremlin and its hypocrisy in dealing with the West.

Col. Penkovsky quarreled openly with his superior officer in Turkey, A. Gen. Rubenko, and as a result was sent back to Moscow.

Despite all this, Col. Penkovsky was reassigned in Moscow to a highly sensitive post. This is a remarkable event that can only be taken as a sign that he had so much support that he could survive an incident which would have ruined most Soviet officers.

Col. Penkovsky's post-Turkish assignment was to the State Committee for the coordination of Scientific Research Work, which was a military intelligence branch. In this service he was expected to contact foreigners inside Russia and abroad.

There are signs that the process of eliminating the Penkovsky circle started shortly after the time of the colonel's arrest last December.

Disappearances

This much at any rate is known:

Gen. I. A. Serov, former chief of the Committee for State Security and chief of military intelligence, has not been seen since Col. Penkovsky's arrest.

Marshal Matvei Zakharov, chief of staff of the Red Army and Gen. Serov's boss, has not been seen since March and his dismissal has been rumored.

An extraordinary article in Pravda, appearing at the time of the trial, promised there would be no judges sitting from the Penkovsky case and indeed that the Colonel's family would be permitted to continue living in Moscow.